

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 090642

R 140100Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2325

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0212

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: ARTICLE ON US-AUSTRALIAN DIFFERENCES IN DECEMBER
1972 BASED ON LEAKS

1. WEEKLY TABLOID "NATION REVIEW" OF JANUARY 11 HAS
PRINTED ARTICLE BASED ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CABLES
BETWEEN CANBERRA AND WASHINGTON DURING LATE DEC. 1972
AND EARLY JAN. 1973. THERE ARE QUOTATIONS FROM
CLASSIFIED MESSAGES REPORTING HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS OF
AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO RESUMPTION OF BOMBING IN NORTH
VIET NAM. ARTICLE EMPHASIZES SHARP
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN USG AND GOA AT THAT TIME. GOA HAS
NOT DENIED AUTHENTICITY OF LEAKED MATERIALS.

2. GOVERNMENT HOPES TO DISCOURAGE REPETITION BY
ENERGETIC PUBLICIZED INVESTIGATIONS AND PRESSURE.
REPORTER AND PUBLISHER INVOLVED ARE NOT LIKELY TO
BE PROSECUTED, HOWEVER.

3. OPPOSITION FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN ANDREW
PEACOCK RELEASED STATEMENT CALLING UPON GOVERNMENT TO
UNCOVER SOURCE OF LEAK, TO INFORM PUBLIC OF RESULTS, AND
TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. PEACOCK SAID THAT NO
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FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CAN TRUST GOA OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES

AS LONG AS SUCH LEAKS MAY OCCUR.

4. BOTH SECRETARY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE TOLD US OF THEIR DISTRESS AT THIS DEVELOPMENT AND HAVE ASSURED US THAT INVESTIGATION WILL BE PUSHED HARD. THEY BELIEVE THAT LEAK PROBABLY OCCURRED FROM STAFF OF MINISTERS WHITLAM OR BARNARD RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND WILL THEREFORE BE HARD TO PIN DOWN.

5. THERE IS VERY LITTLE NEW INFORMATION IN LEAKED MATERIAL. TIMING IS UNFORTUNATE BUT SOLID SUCCESS OF BARNARD VISIT, REFLECTED IN NUMEROUS EDITORIALS, HAS NOT BEEN SPOILED BY THIS SOUR DISTRACTION. EMBASSY IS REFERRING PRESS INQUIRIES TO GOA AND REMINDING REPORTERS THAT OUTCOME OF BARNARD VISIT PROVIDES CURRENT EXPRESSION OF POSITIVE US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS.

6. US SHOULD NOT REACT PUBLICLY TO THIS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT. GOA IS EMBARRASSED, AS IT SHOULD BE. COPY OF ARTICLE HAS BEEN MAILED TO DEPARTMENT.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEWS LEAKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740144/aaaabpqa.tel
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Office: ACTION EA
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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To: STATE
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